

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/008157

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-3, 10-13 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* 4-9, 9a received by this Authority on 15.07.2005 with letter of 11.07.2005
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-8 received by this Authority on 15.07.2005 with letter of 11.07.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/4-4/4 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/008157

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-8</u>	YES
	Claims	<u></u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-8</u>	YES
	Claims	<u></u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-8</u>	YES
	Claims	<u></u>	NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
<p>1. The invention relates to a method for managing a group of network access servers (independent claim 1) and to a network access server comprising means for integration into a group of network access servers (independent claim 7). The method and the server are implemented using the "Multichassis Multilink Point to Point Protocol" (MMP).</p> <p>2. Prior art:</p> <p>D1 (XP002300000) is regarded as the closest prior art and defines a stack group in a "Multichassis Multilink Point to Point Protocol" (MMP) environment. The stack group corresponds to the address list according to the preamble of the independent claims. According to D1, an administrator can manage this list by individually adding additional entries or removing entries using a Command Line Interface (CLI).</p> <p>3. Difference:</p> <p>The subject matter of the independent claims differs from the teaching in D1 in that, according to the invention,</p>			

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● when a new network access server is logging on, a first message is sent from the new server to the other servers in this group,● in that the network access servers for this group store the address of the new server in an address list and each send a second message to the new server, and● in that the second messages are received by the new network access server and used to create and store an address list of all of the servers in this group. <p>3. Problem</p> <p>The problem to be solved is regarded as that of rendering it easier to configure the address list.</p> <p>4. Solution</p> <p>According to the features of the two-part form of the claims, the servers of one group autonomously exchange messages in order to keep the address list updated. Therefore, it is not necessary for an administrator to manage the list in each server manually.</p> <p>The prior art, in particular D1, contains nothing that would prompt a person skilled in the art to implement a method or a network access server according to the independent claims.</p>